

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. Claims 7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, 18-19, 21 and 23 are requested to be cancelled. Claims 1, 5-6 and 11 are currently being amended. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-6, 8, 11, 13, 16-17, 20 and 22 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Priority Documents

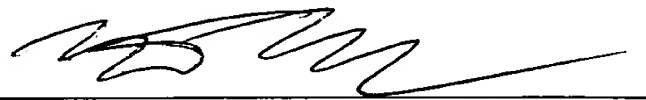
Receipt of the certified copy of the priority document was acknowledged by the PTO in the Notification of Acceptance dated May 31, 2003. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified priority document with the next communication.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 22, 2004

By



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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.